



Campaign Launch: **Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids**



HUNGER SOLUTIONS
NEW YORK UNITING POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids campaign goals & principles**
- **National and state momentum**
- **Strong support in NY**
- **Next Steps**
- **Q&A**



Hunger Solutions New York is a statewide anti-hunger organization.

We increase **awareness** of, **support** for, and **participation** in federal nutrition assistance programs.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Community Eligibility Program (CEP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



Community Food Advocates is a high-impact public policy organization

Our mission is to ensure all New Yorkers have **access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate foods** through equity-centered, high-impact public policy.

- We build creative and strategic coalitions
- We lead
 - Lunch 4 Learning Coalition
 - Good Food Purchasing Campaign
 - Youth Food Advocates



How Things Work Now:

Who receives school meals at no cost?

- Students who meet certain criteria.
 - Income-based eligibility: \$51,338 for a household of 4
- Any child who attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school.
 - Over 2.7M students attend a CEP school across 3,000+ NY schools

How are school meals funded?

- All meals served must meet federal nutrition guidelines to receive reimbursement.
- Schools receive state and federal funding for each breakfast & lunch served.

<u>21-22SY Reimbursement Rates for School Meals</u>				
		Free	Reduced Price	Paid
Breakfast	Federal	\$2.35	\$2.05	\$.33
	State	\$.10	\$.40	\$.01
TOTAL Breakfast:		\$2.45	\$2.45	\$.34
Lunch	Federal	\$3.75	\$3.35	\$.44
	State	\$.05	\$.45	\$.05
TOTAL Lunch:		\$3.80	\$3.80	\$.49

Source: [Reimbursement Rates](#) | [Child Nutrition](#) | [NYSED](#)

The Problem:

- 1 in 5 New York households with children are food insecure
- 800,000+ students will lose access to free school meals on June 30, 2022
- Cost can be a barrier
- Low-income students experience shame and stigma
- Historic low participation in school meal programs, especially school breakfast

The Solution:

Healthy School Meals for All (HSMFA) NYS Kids

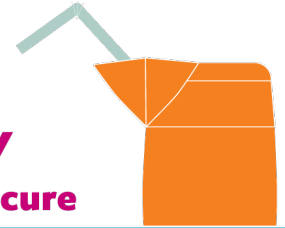
- Ensure a healthy meal at no cost to every NYS student, every school day.
- Ensure schools provide meals through the federal National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to maintain high quality school meals.

Robust body of research show HSMFA is a win-win for students, families, and schools:

- Eliminate stigma and shame
- Provide a significant financial relief for families
- Improve school nutrition finances to allow investments in quality

Households with students attending CEP schools were nearly

3x
less likely
to be food insecure



compared to households with students attending a school eligible for, but not participating in CEP.

Healthy School Meals for All NYS Kids: Campaign Goals & Principles

Campaign Goal:

- New York State must establish and fund a permanent, statewide program to provide a nutritionally-adequate breakfast and lunch each day, at no direct charge to students, regardless of their household income.

Core Principles:

- *HSMFA NY Kids* campaign and policy solution must be respectful, equitable, and systemic, so we will work together to ensure that:
 - School meals are accessible to every student.
 - The collection of income information from families will not be tied to school meals.
- We believe the state revenue source for *HSMFA NY Kids* should not be regressive and will not require a cut to other important programs.

Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids: The Policy Proposal

Designed to build on the foundations of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the pillars of policy proposal include:

1. **Provide two meals (breakfast and lunch) for all children** each school day, regardless of household income.
2. **Ensure nutritious meals:** Schools must serve USDA reimbursable meals through NSLP and SBP.
3. **Increase the State's supplemental meal reimbursement:** The state will cover the cost of meals not covered by the federal government.
4. **Maximize federal reimbursement:** To minimize cost to the state, eligible schools will be required to participate in a federal provision and all schools must support SNAP outreach efforts.

Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids: The Cost

Cost of Program:

- The cost of this policy is equal to the cost of filling the gap between “free” and “paid” reimbursement rates.
- Based on 2021-2022 SY rates, the state would need to contribute the following:
 - **Lunch:** \$3.31 per lunch served
 - **Breakfast:** \$2.02 per breakfast served
- *Impact on current CEP schools:* CEP schools would receive state funds for all meals reimbursed at paid rate.



National Momentum

There is growing interest and energy around the country for School Meals for All

**RAISE
YOUR HAND
for Healthy School
Meals for All**



The Pandemic Changed... Everything

- COVID-19 highlighted the critical role of school meals for students
- Providing meals to kids during school closures was a key component of our country's pandemic response
- Serving meals at no charge for 2+ years served as a trial run for School Meals for All policies



Survey Results Confirm Benefits

The School Nutrition Association conducted a survey and found that school meal program directors across the country reported that serving free meals to all students during the pandemic

- increased access
- improved equity
- fueled a large decrease in unpaid meal debt



Steady Stream of Supportive Media



School meals should remain free for all children — today and always

LOCAL

Free school lunches for all Mass. kids? Experts argue in support of state bill.

The Washington Post

Opinion: Free school meal programs don't just feed hungry kids — they're a major win for moms

National Organization Support



Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics



California and Maine Passed Permanent School Meals for All Legislation



Vermont Recently Passed a One Year Extension of School Meals for All



Massachusetts Has a One Year Extension of School Meals for All Pending



Many States Have Introduced School Meals for All Legislation



Wisconsin
Minnesota
Colorado
Maryland
North Carolina
New York

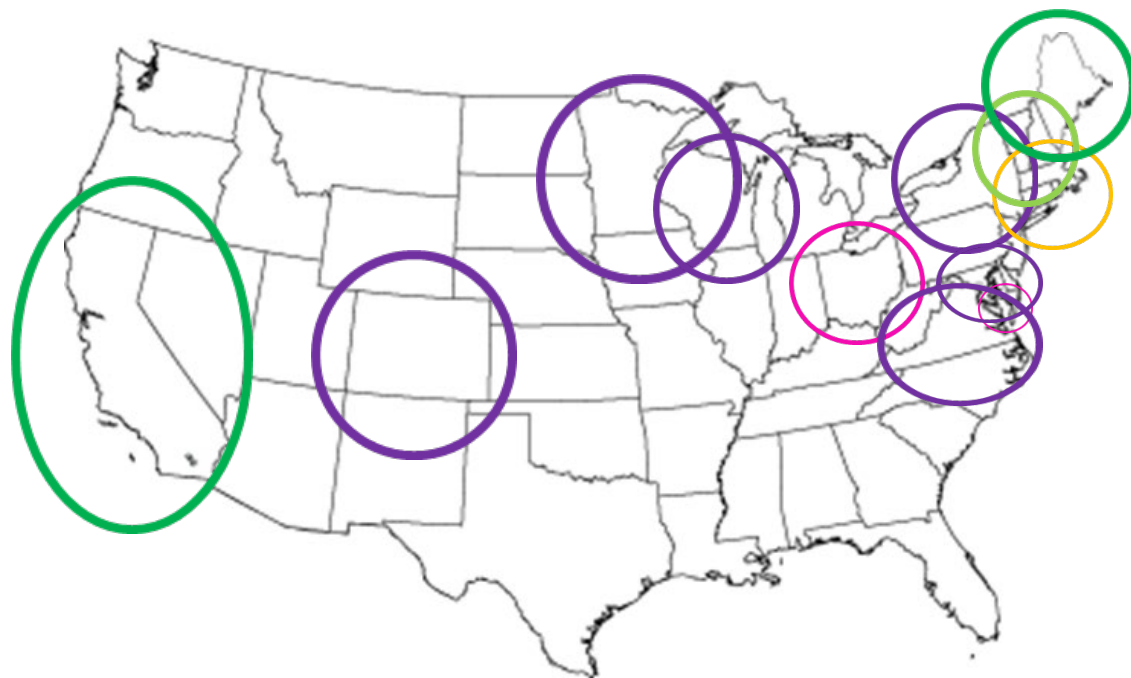
Additional States are Starting Campaigns



Ohio

DC

Summary of Action



Ohio

DC

Momentum

- Nearly 12 percent of America's children live in California and now have access to free school meals
- Maine's School Meals for All legislation passed with bipartisan support
- Vermont's one-year extension of School Meals for All and Massachusetts' pending bill are adding to the progress
- The growing number of state campaigns, shows there is support for this issue across the country

Synergy and Sharing



Healthy School Meals for All Maryland

Kids can't learn when they are hungry. Students experiencing hunger have lower academic performance and are at a higher risk of negative health outcomes.

By offering school breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge, we can take a critical step toward ending childhood hunger in Maryland by ensuring all our children have the nutrition they need to grow and thrive.

Providing Healthy School Meals for All Maryland will accomplish the following goals:



Free school meals: Yes, we can do that

With federal program expiring, the state must pick up the tab so students don't go hungry.

By The Editorial Board Updated June 8, 2022, 4:00 a.m.



Students lined up for lunch at Plymouth Community Intermediate School in March. It's estimated that the federal universal school meal program, set to expire on June 30, can save some families about \$1,200 a year in grocery bills. JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

While the nation fixates on the cost of a gallon of gasoline, has anyone checked the cost of a gallon of milk lately? What about a dozen eggs or a loaf of bread?

So when the latest [survey by the Greater Boston Food Bank](#) finds that nearly a third of the state's adult

States have been able to build on each other's work by sharing:

- Fact sheets
- Videos
- Websites
- Legislative language
- Media
- Polling
- Trainings etc.

State Momentum: School Meals for All in NYC



Leverage Community Eligibility Provision

- Initially anticipated easy win with mayoral support
- Built a **broad and diverse** coalition
- Secured key **champions**
 - City Council
 - Public Advocate
 - Borough Presidents
- Invite those **most directly impacted** to the table



State Momentum:

During the FY 2022-2023 state budget cycle:

- **More than 150 leading health, education, and anti-hunger organizations** signed on to our letter advocating for Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids.
- **NYS Educational Conference Board** released a position paper in support.
- **Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas introduced bills** that would establish healthy school meals for all.

Looking ahead to the FY 2023-2024 budget, we must maintain – and grow – this strong, multi-sector coalition.

Strong Support in NY

- **Michelle Barber, President**
New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- **Martha Group, President-Elect**
New York State Council of School Superintendents
- **Tom Tatun, Director of Government Relations**
Association of School Business Officials of New York
- **Donna Riviello, President**
New York School Nutrition Association

Timeline:

Goal: Include Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids in the FY 2023-2024 NYS Budget

- **Summer 2022:**
 - Launch & grow statewide campaign
 - Submit proposal to Governor Hochul's office
- **Fall 2022:**
 - Build support among the Governor's office and legislature
- **January 2023 - April 2023 (budget season!):**
 - Advocate to ensure Healthy School Meals for All is included in:
 - Executive budget proposal (January)
 - One-house budgets (March)
 - Final budget (April 1)

Next Steps:

- **Join the coalition!**
- **Share your story** – as a student, parent, administrator, or advocate – to help articulate the real impacts of this policy in communities across NY.
- **Spread the word** to help grow the coalition.

bit.ly/HealthySchoolMealsNY

Q&A

